

TIMBER SALE CHECKLIST

FOREST AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Stephens State Forest, Thousand Acre Unit
Monroe County, T-73-N, R-19-W

DATE: 12/19/07

SCOPE OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICE:

This harvest consists of a 17 acre regeneration harvest. There are 553 mature trees, primarily red and white oak, with an estimated volume of 85,307 board feet (Scribner). The oak sawtimber in the stand is beginning to decline due to oak wilt, and the understory has excellent natural oak regeneration. This stand will regenerate naturally to an oak forest.

ACRES: 17

GOAL/OBJECTIVES FOR THE TIMBER SALE:

The goal of this timber sale is to regenerate a stand of oak timber that is mature and starting to decline in health. Without proper management and regeneration, the oak component of the stand will gradually disappear, and other species will occupy the site. The sustainability of the oak forest is important for wildlife diversity and for the health of the state forest.

ACCESS FOR TIMBER SALE: Can we access site through state lands or will an easement be needed? Is access seasonal? Does sale cross waterways and what will be done to minimize damage? Do we need to lay out a temporary road or skid trails? Where will the landing(s) be located?

The sale will be accessed through state land. The area forester will determine where temporary skid trails may be located. The landing area will be located directly south and west of the timber sale area. No skid trails will cross waterways.

ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Upon examination of the area, is the presence of any archeological resources suspected? Should inquiry be made of the Office of State Archeologist regarding presence of possible archeological resources? If not, why not?

No evidence of archeological resources was noted when the stand was inventoried and marked. Logging will be conducted only when the ground is dry or frozen to minimize the risk of soil disturbance.

FOREST HEALTH. What forest health issues are involved? How does the cultural practice affect them? Is the need for dead and dying trees and forest litter addressed and how?

Forest health will improve with regeneration of young vigorous forests. Dead trees will not be harvested and numerous cavity trees remain. Tree tops will be left to decompose.

INVASIVE SPECIES. Presence of invasive plants and what will be done to minimize spread?

No invasive species of concern were noted in the natural areas inventory.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES. Are any threatened or endangered species effected and if so, what steps will be taken to protect them?

No threatened or endangered species were noted.

PUBLIC SAFETY. Are issues of public safety involved? What steps are taken to address them?

The harvest will occur in a remote location and safety issues concerning the public will be minimal. The area will be signed before, during, and after the harvest to inform the public about the harvest.

RECREATION. What are any short or long-term impacts on recreation in the harvest area, including hunting, skiing, hiking, etc.

No

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION. Does the cultural practice impact research and/or education? Do research institutions need to be contacted and if so, when was this done, who was contacted and what were the issues raised?

The areas will be signed as to the purpose of the harvest for public demonstration and education.

REFORESTATION. How does this cultural practice affect regeneration on the area? Is natural or artificial regeneration needed and if so, what steps are taken to provide it?

Natural regeneration is present in the understory of the stand. These seedlings and saplings will create the future oak stand.

UNIQUE NATURAL AREAS. Does this cultural practice take place within a designated natural area or within an area that should be considered a natural area? If so, what steps are taken to preserve the character of the area?

There are no unique or natural areas in or near the harvest site.

WATERSHED PROTECTION AND WATER QUALITY. What watershed protection and water quality issues are involved and what steps are being taken?

Iowa Forestry BMP's will be followed for this harvest. Harvest operations will be restricted to periods when the ground is dry or frozen, minimizing soil disturbance. Skid trails will be seeded in the spring following harvest if needed.

WILDLIFE. What wildlife issues are involved and how are they being addressed? Does the practice benefit wildlife, what species and what are the benefits? Were species of greatest conservation need identified on this site? If so, how will this activity impact them. Does this activity effect forest fragmentation? If so, how will this be addressed?

The harvest will benefit wildlife by providing an increase in nesting cover and browse. Several large and old trees were preserved for den and roosting trees for wildlife.

Comments/Questions from the Public regarding this harvest:

Have all public comments from the public been received and addressed and are they attached to this document for public review?

Reviewed by: (delete from website posting)

Wildlife Diversity Specialist _____

Plant Ecologist _____

Threatened and Endangered Species Specialist _____

Fisheries Biologist (If trout stream is on or adjacent to harvest site)

District/Area Forester (or designee) _____ **Jeff Goerndt** _____

Section Supervisor _____